

15 September 2010

Dear Parents

***Sweet Charity* 25 to-27 November 2010 – The Portsmouth Grammar School’s Jaw-Dropping New Show**

It is with excitement and pleasure that I invite you to Portsmouth Grammar School’s latest musical, “*Sweet Charity*”, by Cy Coleman, Neil Simon and Dorothy Fields, appearing at the **Kings Theatre** from the **25 to the 27 November** at **7.30pm**. In a completely original adaptation, the story of Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess in the Fan-Dango Ballroom, will be brought to life with extravagant dance numbers, exceptional voices, and a beautiful, striking design.

“*Sweet Charity*”, made famous by numbers such as “*Big Spender*”, “*If They Could See Me Now*” and the jaw-dropping “*Rhythm of Life*”, follows the trials and tribulations of a young girl looking for love and liberty in the big city, where she encounters both the lowest and highest societies in her quest to elevate herself away from hostessing. A romantic spirit in a world of licentiousness, the other burlesque hostesses in the ballroom are not ready to let a girl escape their own fate; and when Charity eventually meets the man of her dreams, how will he cope knowing that she danced for money? And who are the mysterious “*Rhythm of Life*” church invading the city, and what exactly are their malevolent plans?

As PGS’s new Director in Residence, I am delighted to present my first show with the school. Previously, I have had success on the London Fringe with shows such as “*Fun Like Stalingrad*”, “*Sondheim’s Assassins*”, and “*Ubu Roi*”, and I won “Best Newcomer” at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2006. Coming from Eton College as their Director in Residence, I trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and have also worked with famous directors such as Sean Matthias, Andy Nyman and Roxanna Silbert.

With our marvellous creative team featuring choreographer Gemma Williams, designer Ali Dyer, costumier Sarah Green and musical director Andrew Cleary, and a dedicated, talented and collaborative cast and crew comprised of all years throughout the school, the show is already selling strongly and the best tickets are disappearing fast. With tickets priced at **£12** (concessions at **£8**), this is a great opportunity to see a West End standard show without having to leave Portsmouth. Hoop it down to the Kings Theatre, 25 - 27 November, 7.30pm.

See you there!

Benji Sperring
Director in Residence